

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claims 1 and 4-20 remain at issue and new claims 21 and 22 are at issue.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner notes there is no antecedent for "the same fluid circuit" found in line 2. Claim 7 has been amended to change "the same" to --a single-- fluid circuit and claim 7 is now believed in condition to overcome this grounds of rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 16-18 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yang, U.S. Patent No. 4,828,241. Claims 5-8, 10, 13, 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Yang. Claims 4, 9, 12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yang in view of Harrison, U.S. Patent No. 6,296,241.

Claim 3 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but has been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 as been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 3. More particularly, claim 1 is amended to recite at least one of the means for applying clamping pressure being attached to the rigid clamp base in a manner enabling it move lengthwise relative to the clamp base. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 as amended includes the allowable subject matter of claim 3 and is now in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 4-20, which depend from claim 1, are now believed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the claims in their amended form and allowance of the claims in light of these amendments and the arguments set forth herein are respectfully requested.

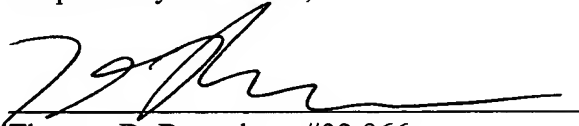
New independent claim 21 and dependent claim 22 are newly submitted for examination. Claim 21 is similar in scope to original claim 5 and claim 22 is similar in scope to original claim 7. That is, both claims recite an actuator driving an operatively associated drive shaft and pressure foot. Neither Yang nor Harrison teach an actuator driven drive shaft, rather each teaches only a screw driver. Thus, they require a slow manual actuation. Claims 21 and 22, by way of contrast, require automated actuation that enables quick application of clamp pressure and a higher quality end product. Applicant does not concede that using more than one

pneumatic or automated clamp in combination with the other elements recited in claims 21 and 22 is known or obvious to one of skill in the art. Rather, the express teaching of Harrison and Yang require hand actuated clamps and provided no impetus to one of skill in the art to substitute pneumatic clamps. Applicant submits the Examiner's combination of these references with a pneumatic clamp is inappropriate and results from a hindsight analysis on the claimed invention.

If it would be helpful to obtain favorable consideration of this case, the Examiner is encouraged to call and discuss this case with the undersigned.

This constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and an authorization to charge all fees therefore to deposit account No. 19-5117 if not otherwise specifically requested. The undersigned hereby authorizes the charge of any required fees not included or any deficiency of fees submitted herewith to be charged to deposit account No. 19-5117.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bratschun', written over a horizontal line.

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